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**APRIL 21, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MONEY LAUNDERING DRUG PROCEEDS

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today Natasha Adams, age 27, of Largo, Maryland, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money obtained from drug proceeds.

According to a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, the defendant admitted that between 1997 and 2003, Jermaine Wallace and others conspired to distribute, and distributed, cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base in the District of Maryland, primarily in Prince George's County, Maryland, and counties located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The distribution of the controlled substances by Wallace and others in the conspiracy generated large sums of money. Wallace solicited the assistance of his girlfriend Natasha Adams, in the concealment and legitimation of the illegal proceeds. Natasha Adams was aware that the monies provided by Jermaine Wallace were proceeds of his drug sales. During the course of the conspiracy, Natasha Adams used drug proceeds to purchase a 2000 BMW X5 on March 9, 2000 and to obtain a loan in the amount of \$206,275.42 to purchase a home located at 4200 Lavendar Lane, Mitchellville, Maryland in December 2002. In addition, Natasha Adams used various bank accounts which contained cash provided by Wallace to send wire transfers to and on behalf of

Wallace. Between 2000 and 2002, Adams wired approximately \$17,723 from the accounts. Finally, for the period between 1998 and 2002, Natasha Adams's bank accounts with Chevy Chase Bank reflect deposits totaling \$364,142.41, of which approximately \$191,374.32 were in cash. The cash deposits constitute drug proceeds from Jermaine Wallace.

Natasha Adams faces a maximum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 and three (3) years of supervised release. Judge J. Frederick Motz has scheduled sentencing for June 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Natasha Adams will remain on pre-trial release until the sentencing hearing. On May 5, 2004, Jermaine Wallace pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base. On June 22, 2004, he was sentenced to 188 months imprisonment.

The case is a result of a joint three-year investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Baltimore District Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration, Baltimore District Office, Salisbury Post of Duty. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Angela R. White and Christine Manuelian.